

The River Parrett Trail

Section 1: Chedington to Merriott

Overview

The start is 600 feet above sea level at Thorney Mill Springs and the route drops down through fields to South Perrott. It then rolls across the countryside following the Parrett where possible and passing through the hamstone villages of South Perrott, North Perrott and Merriott.

Waterproof boots are advisable as much of this first section is through fields close to the river; in particular, the fields between the start and South Perrott are wet as there are many springs in this area. The route is primarily level. There may be livestock in the fields, so please keep dogs on leads.

This section crosses four 'A' roads where extreme care should be taken and the main line South Western Railway line.

Length of Walk: 6.75 miles

OS Explorer Maps: 116 Lyme Regis & Bridport and 129 Yeovil & Sherborne



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Parking: Winyard's Gap Pub, Chedington, please ask permission of the landlord. Roadside parking in Merriott. Please park sensibly to prevent congestion.



Travel and Transport: Visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or www.travelinesw.com for help in planning your logistics.



Toilets: Limited, except for local pubs and cafés.



Places to Eat and Drink: There are pubs in Chedington, South Perrott, North Perrott and Merriott. Shops and cafés in North Perrott and Merriott.

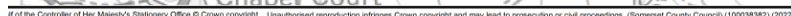


Look out for: Wild flowers in the spring, including native *Fritillaria meleagris* or Snake's Head fritillary, and evidence of ancient leats and mills, particularly around North Perrott.

Haselbury Mill has a large Tithe Mill – is this original or a realistic replica?



While in the Area: Allow time to visit Crewkerne with bustling cafes and independent shops, especially the Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre with fascinating displays of life in the area. Pick up a leaflet from the Information Centre about The Crewkerne Antique Trail.



Disclaimer - The Public Rights of Way shown on the map are only intended as an indication of the general route. To determine the exact route of a Public Right of Way, the Definitive Map (1:10560 scale) should be consulted.

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1. ST 491 062 CHEDINGTON

With the Winyard's Gap Pub behind you, turn left along the road towards Chedington to reach signed footpath on **R**. Go through gate, head diagonally **L** then bear **R** to follow marker posts. Go straight across next two fields. In next field bear to **R** of three large trees and aim for gate in bottom **R** hand corner.

2. ST 483 063

Follow **R** hand edge of next two fields, with start of river on your **R**. At end of second field go through gate and turn **R**, signed to South Perrott, and then after 30m go into next field and bear **L**, aiming for gate halfway along fence on **L**. Go through two gates and keep to **L** hand edge of next field (seating area on **R**) to gate in **L** hand corner of field. Continue ahead to cross bridge over river to another gate opposite to reach a lane.

The lane continues along the riverbed, so it is advisable to take signed permissive path through gate on **L** and go along **R** hand edge of field to re-join the lane via a pedestrian gate. Continue along the lane to reach a road and turn **R** and then immediately **L** on signed path to reach gate into South Perrott churchyard.

3. ST 478 067 SOUTH PERROTT

Leave churchyard by main iron gateway and walk down road to reach main road (A356). Go **R** along footpath for 110m passing pub then cross road with care to go along Pipplepen Lane and follow 850m to Pipplepen Farm.

4. ST 473 076 PIPPLEPEN FARM

Continue on road passing the farm on your **R**. After 150m where road bends **L** go straight ahead on footpath aiming for pylon ahead. At end of field pass through kissing gate, footbridge and kissing gate. Follow **R** hand edge of next field ascending gently and then bearing slightly **L** to railway crossing.

5. ST 473 083

Cross railway with care and go straight ahead in next field aiming for electricity pole and **R** of group of trees ahead. On reaching trees bear slightly **R** to locate kissing gate in **R** hand boundary. Cross two bridges and go through second kissing gate into field. Bear **L** in aiming for gate in far **L** hand side (it may be easier to go clockwise round field keeping hedge on **L**). Go through wooded area to reach a waymarked gate. Go straight ahead 90m to reach trough, then go 90 degrees **R** uphill for 150m aiming for **L** end of hedge then ahead 120m towards a house to reach a metal gate in top **R** hand corner. Go through and walk to **R** of cottages 100m to reach road. Turn **L**, walk along road 350m to junction with main road. Turn **R** along road for 100m passing pub on **R**, to reach village green in North Perrott.

6. ST 475 095 NORTH PERROTT

Turn **L** at village green and walk along road 250m to reach church on **R**. Continue past church and just past Manor Farm Drive go **R** through kissing gate and cross field downhill on well-defined path to reach a kissing gate on to a surfaced road.



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Section 1: Chedington to Merriott (page 2)

7. ST 469 098

Turn **L** along road, pass school on **L** and continue straight ahead on path signed to Crewkerne. On reaching gate bear **R** to go through kissing gate. Walk down narrow enclosed path through woods to reach a further gate. Go **R** and continue downhill on wider farm track to reach gate. Cross and bear slightly **L**, just to **R** of group of trees, and where trees end turn **L** towards a metal gate close to the River Parrett. Go through gate and walk upstream with river on **R** and old mill ruins on **L** until you reach a bridge.

8. ST 461 098

Cross the river, pass through kissing gate, and turn sharp **R** to walk downstream with river on **R**. Keep along the river bank for 1.5Km (beware - even after dry weather there are boggy patches which should be crossed with care) passing through several kissing gates, until you reach footbridge on **R**. Cross and go across field, with river now on **L**, to reach squeeze stile to **R** of road bridge. Go up steps to reach very busy main road (A30). Cross with extreme care to steps directly opposite on path signed to Merriott. Follow track to **R** hand corner of field to a squeeze stile onto road opposite Haselbury Mill.

9. ST 459 110 HASELBURY MILL

Turn **R** on road and immediately **L** through squeeze stile signed to Merriott. Walk along **L** hand edge of field through another squeeze stile past fingerpost and, where hedge line ends, bear **L** with hedge to squeeze stile in far **L** hand corner.

Keep to **L** hand edge of next field to footbridge across River Parrett.

10. ST 459 115

Cross bridge and head initially straight ahead and then bear **R** on well-defined path to footbridge and kissing gate ahead. Continue in same direction across next two fields passing through kissing gates. In next field go straight across, 15m in from **R** hand edge, to reach a footbridge and gate in far hedge. Keep to **R** hand edge of next fields crossing kissing gates before reaching enclosed grassy path to kissing gate onto main road (A356).

11. ST 451 121

Cross main road with care, go **L** for 30m and then **R** on tarmac road. Continue for 660m along this road passing mill on **R** to reach the end at a T junction in Merriott. Turn **R** on road, and after 30m, turn **L** on footpath signed to church. Follow with stream on **R** and, after a footbridge, continue along grassy path. Follow across a track, then 30m beyond bear **R** to a squeeze and stone stile. Follow enclosed path to gate. Continue straight ahead to reach road at Merriott. (Turn **L** here to visit church).

Start here for Section 2 (Merriott to Ham Hill) and Section 3 (Merriott to Langport via the western link route)

Please follow the Countryside Code. Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside. Respect everyone. Protect the environment. Enjoy the outdoors.

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